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A N N U A L R E P O R T

on the

SOUTH HERTS (No. 1) SANITARY DISTRICT.



MALCOLM GROSS.

M.B., B.S., D.P.H.

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH.

1944

PREFACE.

This report, as in previous years, is again curtailed on the instructions received from the Ministry of Health.

The outstanding Public Health problem during 1944 was the shortage of water, brought about by several years of low rainfall. The problem was, on the whole, well met within the District, intelligent foresight doing its part in providing against serious lack of water supply; however in the case of Berkhamsted the area supplied by the local Water Company suffered from a protracted and acute lack of water, which might well have resulted in a public health catastrophe. Further reference to this occurrence will be found in the Report on the Berkhamsted Urban District.

In regard to infectious disease, there was a total of 79 cases of Scarlet Fever notified in the District as compared with 125 cases in the year 1943; all but one case were nursed in isolation hospitals. There were no deaths. 19 of the cases occurred in residential institutions, 13 being in a residential nursery, 5 in another residential nursery, and 1 at a school hostel. I would like to acknowledge the help I received from Dr. Stokes of the Ministry of Health Laboratory in dealing with these outbreaks, particularly in the matter of collection and the examination of swabs.

Only 86 cases of measles were notified during the year, nearly half of these occurred in the Berkhamsted Urban District. There were no deaths. One of the above cases occurred in a residential institution - a Women's Land Army hostel. On the other hand 162 cases of Whooping Cough were notified, and there was one death. 13 cases of Whooping Cough occurred in residential nurseries.

With regard to Diphtheria, - 7 cases were notified during the year, but in one of these the diagnosis was revised. Of the remaining cases 4 were adults, (one Service case) one was a baby with Aural Diphtheria, and one a school child attending a school outside the District. The record of absence of Diphtheria since 1941 from among children attending elementary schools in this District therefore remains unbroken.

Diphtheria Immunisation schemes have continued throughout the year. It is roughly estimated that by the end of 1944 77% of the children between the ages of 5 and 15 years have been immunised, as also 68% of children between 1 and 5 years of age.

A considerable amount of work was involved in the following up and supervision of contacts in this district of cases of Smallpox which had occurred in another part of the country or abroad. There were altogether 17 direct contacts during the year and most of these received several visits from either the Sanitary Inspector or the Medical Officer of Health.

Much use was made of the District Cleansing Station throughout the year, a total of 163 receiving treatment as either suffering from or having been contacts of Scabies, or being in a verminous condition. The great majority of these were cases of contacts of Scabies.

Under the Ministry of Health Circular 2734 Local Authorities in this District have provided for supply of Insulin to eight persons suffering from Diabetes, six of these were in the Borough of Hemel Hempstead, and two in Borehamsted Urban District.

It is with great regret that I record the death of Mr. E.G. Sherratt, additional sanitary inspector for the Borough of Hemel Hempstead, as a result of a 'cycle accident while he was carrying out his duties. Mr. Sherratt had been a loyal servant of the Corporation for seventeen years; his death was much felt by his colleagues, and I continually miss his presence in the Public Health Department.

At the end of the year Mr. Jno. R. Hadfield retired from his position of Surveyor and Sanitary Inspector for the Borehamsted Urban District after a service of 30 years. I would like to acknowledge the assistance Mr. Hadfield always rendered me, and the pleasant relations which always existed between us.

MALCOLM GROSS

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH.

Public Health Department
Market Square,
Hemel Hempstead.
30.8.45.

BOROUGH OF HEMEL HEMPSTEAD.

STATISTICS.

Population (Registrar-General's estimate of
Resident population) 1944 21,440.

Live Births	Total	M.	F.	Rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population 19.2
	(Legitimate 583	189	194	
	Illegitimate 33	13	20	

Stillbirths	12	6	6	Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births 28.0
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Deaths	222	100	122	Rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population 10.4
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Deaths from Puerperal Causes.

	Deaths.	Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births.
Puerperal sepsis	Nil	Nil
Other puerperal causes	1	2.3
TOTAL	1	2.3

Death rate of infants under one year.

All infants per 1,000 live births	31.2
Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate births	31.3
Illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate births	30.3

Actual number of deaths under one year: Legitimate 12)
Illegitimate 1) Total 13.

REPORT OF THE SANITARY INSPECTOR'S WORK FOR THE YEAR 1944.

Visits and Inspections made.

General	-	Houses	-	Public Health Acts	237
				Housing Act	4
				Overcrowding	31
				Infectious Disease and Disinfection	132
				Complaints investigated	201
				Drainage inspections and tests	273
				Common Lodging Houses	51
				Tents, Vans and Sheds	42
				Stables and Piggeries	17
				Rats and Mice Infestation	480
				Factories and Workplaces	130
				Bakehouses	91
				Schools	14
				Shops Acts	195
				Petroleum Stores	16
				Common Yards and Passages	25
				Re-visits to premises under notice	867
				Work in progress	260
				Interviews with Owners, Builders, etc,	842
				Vermicious premises	196
				Cesspools	720
				Rivers and Streams	5
				Miscellaneous visits and inspections	175
				Public Conveniences	25
				Water Supplies	78
Meat and Food.	-	Slaughterhouses			66
		Butcher's Shops			93
		Fried Fish Shops			44
		Public Markets			164
		General Food Shops and premises			346
		Dairies and Milkshops			235
		Cowsheds			243
		Milk samples taken			44
		Milk samples tested			33
		Milk bottle and Churn rinses			17
		Water samples taken			22
		Food Control			257
				Total Visits and Inspections	6671

Notices served and complied with:-

<u>Outstanding</u> <u>31.12.43.</u>	<u>Served</u> <u>1944</u>	<u>Complied with</u> <u>1944</u>	<u>Outstanding</u> <u>31.12.44.</u>
131	382	411	102

Nuisances and Defects remedied:-

Houses	591
Drainage	117
W.C.'s and Dustbins	136
Premises cleared of Rats and Mice	46
Shops Acts	19
Factories and Offices	25
Food premises	104
Dairies and Cowsheds	89
Common Lodging Houses	25
Miscellaneous	61

Disinfestation

No material change was made in the technique employed for the disinfestation of houses which was introduced in 1943 with satisfactory results. By this method, heavy infestations of bed bugs are dealt with by the use of a proprietary brand of fumigant whilst less severe cases are treated with successive applications of a liquid insecticide; in either event, bedding is removed for steam disinfection whilst treatment of the premises is in progress.

Fumigation involves considerably more planning and supervising than spraying but the results obtained more than justify the extra work involved. No charge is made for the treatment but owners of private property are required to carry out the initial preparation by stripping wallpapars and easing architraves and skirting boards. Possession of the premises is necessary overnight and, as the Corporation have no suitable alternative accomodation occupants generally make their own arrangements for sleeping out. Where difficulty is experienced, however, temporary board and lodging is offered, free of charge, at the Base Hospital. It is realised that such an arrangement, which involves people finding shelter in other houses, has short comings and it is hoped that, when the housing situation eases, special premises may be made available for this purpose.

Constant vigilance is being observed, during routine inspections, for the detection of vermin and there is also close co-operation with the Housing Manager, who frequently refers cases for attention. Formal inspections of dwellings under the

Scabies Order, 1941, resulting from information passed on from the Clinics, also account for a number of cases being brought to light.

The following table gives particulars of the number of houses disinfested for bed bugs throughout the year and the number of treatments necessary for the purpose. It will be observed that in all cases, fumigation was completely successful. In addition, one house was sprayed with insecticide for fleas:-

Fumigation:

		<u>Number of</u>	
	(a)	(b)	
	<u>Houses</u>	<u>Treatments.</u>	<u>Results.</u>
Council			
Houses	12	12	Initial treatment successful in all cases.
Private			
Houses	8	8	
<u>TOTAL.</u>	<u>20</u>	<u>20</u>	

Spraying:

Council			
Houses	10	15	Successful after 1-3 sprayings.
Private			
Houses	8	21	
	18	36	

99 Loads of bedding were steam treated, mainly for vermin.

WATER SUPPLIES.

Main: Most of the Borough, comprising the whole of the built up area, together with some of the outlying parts, is provided with a piped supply of water which (with the exception of a small portion supplied by the Rickmansworth and

Water (Continued)

Uxbridge Valley Water Company) is drawn from the Corporation's two boreholes situated near the centre of the town. These are in chalk and are 326' and 346' respectively. Both of the main supplies are constant and are satisfactory in quantity and quality with the exception that in one or two small areas, insufficiency sometimes arises from inadequate pressure.

Information as to the various types of supplies in use is given below. Two well supplies were discontinued during the year as a result of two houses being connected to the main supply.

Total number of houses in Borough	5679.
(a) Supplied from main:	
(i) Direct	5568)
(ii) to outside standpipes	) 5598.
30)	
(b) Supplied by wells:	
	81.
	<hr/>
Total.	5679.
	<hr/>

The proportion of dwelling houses and the proportion of the population from public water mains:-

- (a) direct to houses is 98% and 97.6% respectively, and
- (b) by means of standpipes is .5% and .6% respectively.

The purity of the water (all of which is subjected to chlorination) as revealed by routine bacteriological examinations, is excellent, the reports invariably describing it to be of high potable character. Eight samples were examined bacteriologically and two chemically, during the year, and all were found to be satisfactory. No samples of raw water were obtained.

Wells. Although there was no shortage of piped water from the town's main supplies, there were instances of shortage occurring during the dry summer spell in some of the private wells. At Bourne End and Winkwell, shallow wells were affected, in addition to a few deep wells in the Northern part of the Borough. In consequence extensions of the mains in two

Water (Continued)

cases, were under consideration at the end of the year and action was taken to secure connection of existing mains at Bourne End wherever possible. The effect of this work was not really apparent during 1944 and will be referred to more fully in subsequent reports.

In the more outlying parts, where the cost of extending the main supply was prohibitive, one borehole which had failed and upon which a dairy farm and four houses were dependent, was deepened and a good supply restored; in another instance, where a farm was without a supply, negotiations were in hand at the end of the year for a deep borehole to be provided.

Drainage and Sanitation.

In order to bring available records up to date, a survey of all premises not connected to the sewer was undertaken, from which was obtained the following useful and interesting information:-

Tables showing Various Forms of Drainage and Sanitary Accommodation at Unsewered Houses.

(A) DRAINAGE.

		<u>Number of Houses</u>	<u>Number of Installations.</u>
(1)	Cesspools	244	199
(2)	Private Disposal Plants	10	9
(3)	Miscellaneous	46	46
		<hr/>	<hr/>
	Total	300	254
		<hr/>	<hr/>

(B) SANITARY ACCOMMODATION.

		<u>Number of Houses</u>	<u>Number of Closets.</u>
(1)	Waterclosets	200	273
(2)	Pailclosets	100	102.
		<hr/>	<hr/>
	Total.	300	375.
		<hr/>	<hr/>

Drainage and Sanitary (Continued)

The decision to extend the cesspool emptying service (provided under the terms of Section 74 of the Public Health Act, 1936, and previously restricted to certain properties) to practically all cesspools, was implemented in February 1944. A nominal charge only is made for each emptying, varying from 5/- to 12, 3d., according to the rateable value of the premises concerned.

In consequence of publicity given to these improved facilities, the number of cesspools cleansed at regular intervals rose from 47 to 95 in addition to which 11 cesspools were emptied upon request, as occasion demanded. The total annual number of emptyings was thus practically doubled and increased from 235 to 467. Whilst these figures cannot yet be regarded as wholly satisfactory, they indicate that the concession was largely appreciated, although it is feared that there still remain many individuals who are content to resort to less desirable and even, on occasions, less lawful methods of disposal for their sewage.

Most pailclosets are emptied free of charge, and, during the year, the service at Bourne End was extended from once to twice weekly; in the few other instances where collection is undertaken a weekly service remains in force.

Constructional Improvements.

Constructional works of improvement included the installation of six private sewage disposal plants and the connection of one house to the public sewer. This resulted in the abolition of seven cesspools and four pailclosets, making a total of 59 cesspools whose use has been abolished since 1938, during which period, 74 premises have been connected to the sewer; in two cases, cesspools were provided to houses previously without any recognised form of drainage. Some 720 inspections of drainage installations were recorded which shows a marked increase in the number of visits over previous years, due, largely, to the survey previously described.

Milk Production and Distribution.

Methods. Once more the efforts of the Department were energetically directed towards a cleaner and safer milk supply and, to this end, several new features were introduced into the work during the year. Notable amongst these was the

Milk Production and Distribution(continued).

commencement of routine sampling of washed milk bottles for bacteriological examination and the establishment of a laboratory within the office, for conducting methylene blue and resazurin tests.

Although the laboratory was not available for use until the year was well advanced, there can be no doubt that it will prove to be a decided acquisition, particularly in work of an advisory nature, which occupies the major part of the Department's time. The attention paid to bottle washing was more than justified by the results, a fact which was proved conclusively by the bacteriologist's reports upon routine samples of washed bottles submitted from time to time for examination.

In this area, of the eight principal retailers, two possess means of sterilising bottles by steam, one has a mechanically operated washing machine and the remainder wash by hand. As the hand washing methods in operation could not be considered adequate, sodium hypochlorite was advised, together, in some cases, with various improvements in equipment; principally, washing troughs. Below is set out a summary showing the effects of these recommendations:-

Cleaning Process.

No. of specimens.	Water only	Sodium Hypo.	Steam.	RESULTS.
4	3	1	-	Bottle washed in S. Hypo satisfactory; other 3 failed with bacterial counts ranging from a few thousand to well over one hundred thousand.
5	3	2	-	No bacteria found in bottles washed with S. Hypo, other 3 failed.
6	1	4	1	No bacteria found in bottles washed in S. Hypo: other 2 failed.

Over/

Milk Production and Distribution (Continued)

The results are very encouraging and illustrate the practical value of sodium hypochlorite which can be applied simply without any special skill being necessary, and yet be relied upon to do the job.

Prevalence of Infectious Disease.

The following gives details of notified cases (excluding Tuberculosis) during the year:-

<u>Disease.</u>	<u>Total cases notified.</u>	<u>Admitted to Hospital.</u>	<u>Deaths.</u>
Scarlet Fever.	30.	30.	Nil.
Measles	10.	3.	Nil.
Whooping Cough	64	11.	1.
Diphtheria	4.	4.	Nil.
Pneumonia	9.	2.	-
Erysipelas	3.	-	-
Dysentery	39.	33.	-

Tuberculosis.

<u>New Cases.</u>	<u>Deaths.</u>
Pulmonary	21.
Non-pulmonary	3.

Pulmonary

Non-pulmonary

10.

1.

HEWELL HEMPSTEAD RURAL DISTRICT.

STATISTICS.

Population (Registrar-General's estimate of the resident population) 1944 10,320

Live Births	Total	M.	F.	) Rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population 19.5
	{ Legitimate	183	91		92
	{ Illegitimate	18	3	10

Stillbirths	5	2	1	Rate per 1,000 total (live and still births)
			 14.7

Deaths	112	64	48	Rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population 10.9
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Deaths from Puerperal Causes.

	Deaths	Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births.
Puerperal sepsis	Nil	Nil
Other puerperal causes	Nil	Nil
TOTAL	Nil	Nil

Death rate of infants under one year.

All infants per 1,000 live births	.....	24.9
Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate births	.....	27.3
Illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate births	.....	Nil.

Actual number of deaths under one year: Legitimate 5)
Illegitimate Nil) Total 5

REPORT OF THE SANITARY INSPECTOR'S WORK FOR THE YEAR 1944

Visits and Inspections made.

General.	-	Houses	-	Public Health Acts	82
				Housing Acts	44
				Overcrowding	2
				Infectious Disease and Disinfection	33
				Complaints investigated	78
				Drainage inspections and tests	17
				Tents, Vans and Sheds	10
				Factories, Workshops etc.,	12
				Bakohouses	27
				Shops Act	17
				Petroleum Stores	19
				Re-visits to premises under notice	99
				Verminous premises	14
				Cesspools	15
				Water samples taken	12
				Miscellaneous visits and inspections	8
Meat and Food.	-			Slaughterhouses	15
				Butcher's shops	57
				General food shops and premises	9
				Dairies, milk shops, and cow sheds	216

Notices Served and Complied with:-

<u>Out-standing</u> <u>31.12.43.</u>	<u>Served 1944.</u>	<u>Complied with</u> <u>1944</u>	<u>Outstanding</u> <u>31.12.44.</u>
10	15	42	18

Nuisances and Defects remedied.

Houses	35
Drainage and Cesspools	44
E.C.'s, W.C.'s and Dustbins	14
Shops Acts	Nil.
Dairies and Cowsheds	17
Miscellaneous	4

Disinfestation.

14 premises were found to be infested with bugs and were treated by contact insecticide (spraying). Tenants were advised regarding the general cleansing of the premises following disinfestation.

WATER.

Water supplies in this district were satisfactory both in quality and quantity; although levels in the northern area dropped considerably, conditions never obtained where the water supply fell short.

At the Markyate water-works a serious problem was set by reason of the main pump breaking down during the month of May. Water was still obtainable in full quantity by means of two older pumps, but in order to safeguard the supply, arrangements were put in hand for the sinking of another bore-hole and preparations were made for the emergency distribution of water by cartage. By the end of the year the pump was repaired and the new bore-hole available, and it was felt that the water position at this works had been amply safeguarded for the future.

Piped supplies have been bacteriologically analysed as shown:-

Markyate One sample taken - "Highly satisfactory for drinking and household purposes."
Flamstead ... One sample taken - "Highly satisfactory for drinking and household purposes!"

These are the only two water-works owned by the Local Authority.

There was no evidence of plumbo-solvent action and in view of the hardness of the water, any would appear improbable. No action has been necessary in respect of contamination.

Water supplies are constant. Of 2,977 houses in the District 2,180 or 73% have a piped supply under pressure to the houses, 406 or 14% are served by stand pipes, and the remaining houses, consisting of isolated cottages, farm houses, etc., are dependent on private wells.

PREVALENCE OF INFECTIOUS DISEASE. The following gives details of notified diseases (excluding Tuberculosis) during the year:-

<u>DISEASE.</u>	<u>Total cases notified.</u>	<u>Admitted to hospital.</u>	<u>Deaths.</u>
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Scarlet Fever	19	18	Nil
Measles	25	Nil	Nil
Whooping Cough	11	Nil	Nil
Diphtheria	1	1	Nil
Pneumonia	2	-	-
Erysipelas	2	Nil	-

TUBERCULOSIS

<u>No. Cases.</u>	<u>Deaths</u>
Pulmonary 8	Pulmonary 5
Non-Pulmonary 6	Non-Pulmonary 1

BERKHAMSTED URBAN DISTRICT.

STATISTICS.

Population (Registrar-General's estimate of
the Resident Population) 1944 11,530

Live Births	(Legitimate	Total	M.	F.	Rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population 16.2
		174	81	93	
	(Illegitimate	13	7	6	

Stillbirths	3	1	2	Rate per 1,000 total (live and still Births) 15.8
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Deaths	137	66	71	Rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population 11.9
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Deaths from Puerperal Causes.
Deaths. Rate per 1,000 total (live
and still) births.

Puerperal sepsis	Nil	Nil
Other puerperal causes	1	5.3
TOTAL	1	5.3

Death rate of infants under one year.

All infants per 1,000 live births	32.1
Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate births	28.7
Illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate births	76.9

Actual number of deaths under one year:	Legitimate 5)
	Illegitimate 1) Total 6.

REPORT OF THE SANITARY INSPECTOR'S WORK FOR THE YEAR 1944.

Visits and Inspections made.

General	-	Houses - Public Health and Housing Act	136
		Infectious Disease and Disinfection	97
		Drainage inspections and tests	15
		Common Lodging Houses	8
		Factories, Workshops and Workplaces	18
		Petrol licenses issued	19
		Bakohouses	20
		Verminous premises	18
		Water samples taken by U.D.C.	3
		Water samples taken by Great Berkhamsted Water Company	5
		Tests re Chlorination of Town Water	18
Meat and Food	-	Butcher's shops	30
		Public Markets	52
		General Foodshops and premises	45
		Dairies, Milkshops and Cowsheds	108
		Milk samples taken for Minit test	106
		Miscellaneous visits and inspections	29

Notices served and complied with.

Outstanding 31.12.43.	Served 1944	Complied with 1944	Outstanding 31.12.44.
2	34	21	13

Nuisances and defects remedied:-

Drains and Water closets	12
Verminous premises	1
General Defects - Housing	5
Miscellaneous	3

Disinfestation.

During the year one house was treated with a chemical insecticide by the U.D.C.'s Staff.

Water.

A serious shortage of water occurred in the early part of the year. It commenced in the outlying area of supply of the Great Berkhamsted Water Company, and, broadly speaking, increased in extent and severity until the second week in April by which time practically the whole area was almost without water. There is no doubt that the main factor in preventing an outbreak of disease as a result of this state of affairs, was the fortunate freedom of the District from water-borne disease for a long period before and up to the water shortage.

According to the Consulting Engineers to the Company they had, early in December, advised that a new borehole and borehole pump were necessary but the position was such that, at that time of year, one would have expected a gradual rise in water levels tending to right matters at least during the Winter. It was not until early March that a new borehole was commenced to be sunk and it was put into use on April 17th when the shortage disappeared.

The shortage revealed the impossibility of arranging for the supply of available water to specific areas at specific times; I am still unable to say how far this was due to lack of knowledge of the water system of the part of the Company's officers or how far it was due to constructive inadequacy.

As a result of the shortage, distribution by watercarts became necessary but arrangements were quite inadequate until a fleet of lorries carrying water tanks was supplied by the Metropolitan Water Board, who - collecting water from a borehole owned by the Grand Union Canal Company and situated at Northchurch by the side of the canal - after chlorination by means of a portable chlorine apparatus - distributed it throughout the area. This fleet of lorries worked from April 1st to April 23rd and the assistance rendered was greatly appreciated.

Due precautions were taken in the way of analysis of canal, canal borehole, and the new Waterworks borehole water.

Water from the Company's new borehole appears to be entirely satisfactory.

Consideration of the difficulties which attended on this failure leads to the conclusion that it is impossible to over-stress the importance of a water company's taking into its fullest confidence, and exhibiting the closest co-operation with the local authority and the medical officer of health.

Water (Continued).

There has been no evidence of plumbo-solvency occurring in the water; no action has been necessary in respect of contamination.

Of the 3,033 houses in the District all receive main water supplies with the exception of six (6) supplied with well-water.

Prevalence of Infectious Disease.

The following gives details of notified cases (excluding Tuberculosis) during the year:-

<u>Disease.</u>	<u>Total Cases notified.</u>	<u>Admitted to Hospital.</u>	<u>Deaths.</u>
Scarlet Fever.	21.	21	-
Measles	42.	Nil.	Nil.
Whooping Cough	34.	7	Nil.
Diphtheria	1.	1.	1.
Pneumonia	5.	-	-
Erysipelas	2.	-	-
Puerperal Pyrexia	1.	-	-
Ophthalmia Neonatorium	1.	-	-

TUBERCULOSIS.

<u>New Cases.</u>	<u>Deaths.</u>
Pulmonary	9.
Non-Pulmonary	Nil.

Pulmonary	4.
Non-pulmonary	Nil.

BERKHAMSTED RURAL DISTRICT.

STATISTICS.

Population (Registrar-General's estimate of resident population) 1944 5,940

	Total.	M.	F.	
Live Births	(Legitimate	90	45	47) Rate per 1,000 of the
	(Illegitimate	3	3	6) estimated resident
				population 16.1

Stillbirths	2	1	1	Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births 29.7
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Deaths	73	35	38	Rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population 12.3
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Deaths from Puerperal Causes.

	Deaths.	Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births.
Puerperal sepsis	Nil.	Nil.
Other puerperal causes	Nil.	Nil.
TOTAL	Nil.	Nil.

Death rate of infants under one year.

All infants per 1,000 live births	30.3
Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate births	22.2
Illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate births	111.1

Actual number of deaths under one year:-	Legitimate 2)
	Illegitimate 1) Total 3

REPORT OF THE SANITARY INSPECTOR'S WORK FOR THE YEAR 1944.

Visits and Inspections made.

General	-	Houses	-	Public Health Act	98
				Housing Act	37
				Overcrowding	9
				Infectious Disease and Disinfection	25
				Complaints investigated	39
				Drainage inspections and tests	58
				Tents, Vans and Sheds	10
				Factories, Workshops and Workplaces	29
				Bakchouses	16
				Schools	14
				Petroleum Stores	17
				Work in Progress	236
				Verminous premises	10
				Cesspools	49
				Canal Boats	18
				Licensed premises (Hotels and Beerhouses)	12
				Rivers and Streams	29
				Visits re Evacuation and Billeting	137
				Premises disinfected	15
Meat and Food.	-	Slaughterhouses			4
		Cowsheds and Dairies			99
		Milk Samples taken (Minit test)			19
		Water Samples taken			5
		Food Stores			11

Nuisances and Defects remedied.

Houses	154
Drainage and Cesspools	41
W.C.'s	49
Dairies and Cowsheds	12
Factories	5

Disinfestation.

There has been no disinfestation during the year.

WATER.

Constant water supplies from private water works companies are completely available in the parishes of Tring Rural, Puttenham, Wigginton, and Aldbury from the Chiltern Hills Spring

Water Company, in the parishes of Little Gaddesdon from Ashridge Water Company, and partially for the parishes of Northchurch and Potten End from the Great Berkhamsted Water Company. These supplies have been sufficient and satisfactory throughout the year except the supply of the Great Berkhamsted Water Company to Potten End and Northchurch, an account of which can be found in the report for Berkhamsted Urban District.

In the latter half of the year owing to previous deficient rainfall, a number of wells, upon which the hamlet of Frithsdon, in the parish of Potten End, depends, ran dry. Two static tanks were put into use, one being filled by water cartage and the other from a neighbouring well supply. At the time of writing this report the well water position here has improved.

Piped supplies have been analysed as shown:-

Ashridge Water Company	-	January 1944	-	Bacteriological and Chemical.
" " "	-	September 1944	-	Bacteriological.

All samples were satisfactory.

There has been no evidence of plumbo-solvency occurring in the water; supplies have a considerable degree of hardness. No action has been necessary in respect of contamination.

About 90% of the houses in the District receive main water supplies from the water works, and of those houses about 2% are supplied by stand pipes; they contain about 2.5% of the population of the District.

PREVALENCE OF INFECTIOUS DISEASE. The following gives details of notified diseases (excluding Tuberculosis) during the year.

DISEASE.	Total cases	Admitted to	Deaths.
	notified.	hospital.	
Diphtheria	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.
Scarlet Fever	3	3	Nil.
Measles	5	Nil.	Nil.
Whooping Cough	27	1	Nil.
Pneumonia	2	1	2
Erysipelas	2	~	~
Sonne Dysentery	2	~	~
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	1	1	~
Puerperal Pyrexia	8	8	~

TUBERCULOSIS

	New Cases	Deaths
Pulmonary	1	1
Non-Pulmonary	2	Nil.

TRING URBAN DISTRICT.

STATISTICS.

Population (Registrar-General's estimate of the Resident Population) 1944 5,255

	Total	M.	F.	
Live Births (Legitimate	81	42	39	) Rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population 16.4
Live Births (Illegitimate	5	3	2	

Stillbirths	-	-	-	Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births Nil.
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Deaths	57	23	34	Rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population 10.8
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Deaths from Puerperal Causes.

	Deaths.	Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births.
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Puerperal sepsis	Nil	Nil
Other puerperal causes	1	11.6
TOTAL	1	11.6

Death rate of infants under one year.

All infants per 1,000 live births	.....	11.6
Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate births	.....	12.3
Illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate births	.....	Nil.

Actual number of deaths under one year:-	Legitimate 1.)
	Illegitimate Nil.) Total
	1.

REPORT OF THE SANITARY INSPECTOR'S WORK FOR THE YEAR 1944.

Visits and Inspections made.

General	Houses	170
	Cases of Infectious Disease	43
	Cases of Infectious Disease removed to hospital	7
	Disinfections carried out	15
	Complaints investigated	72
	Drainage inspections and tests	7
	Factories, Workshops and workplaces	36
	W.C. Pan and Seat broken	1
	Defective sink	1
	Defective Grates	2
	Defective plaster	2
	Defective W.C. cistern	1
	Defective floors	3
	Walls and Ceilings cleansed	1
	Common Yard insanitary	2
	Cesspool emptied	1
	Accumulation of manure	1
	Cases of Scabies cleansed (families)	2
	Complaints as to quality of milk	2
	Wells closed and water laid on houses	12
	Meat condemned (apart from carcasses)	5 lots
	Tinned meat condemned	6 "
	Tinned fish condemned	2 "
	Fish condemned	5 "
	Sausages condemned	7 "
	Cheese condemned	1 "
	Tinned vegetables condemned	1 "

Meat and Food.

	<u>No. in district.</u>	<u>Visits.</u>
Bakchouses	9	21
Slaughterhouses	1 (in use)	33

(Note:- Carcasses are examined daily by Meat Inspector)

Dairies, Milkshops and Cowsheds	16
	68

Petroleum (consolidated) Act, 1923.

Petroleum licences issued	14
Quantity stored (gallons)	18,300

Nuisances and Defects Remedied.

Houses	24
Drainage and Cesspools	2
Earth closets and W.C.'s	1
Dairies and Cowsheds	1
Factories	1
Miscellaneous	16

Disinfestation

There has been no disinfestation during the year.

WATER.

The whole of the District with the exception of the hamlet of Bulbourne, and a group of cottages at Little Tring is supplied with a continuous piped supply by the Chiltern Hills Spring Water Company.

During part of the year shortage of supply necessitated the water being cut off during night hours; otherwise the supply has been satisfactory.

There has been no evidence of plumbo-solvent action, and no action has been necessary in respect of contamination.

During the year water has been laid on to twelve(12) houses formerly supplied by well water; there remain about twenty-five(25) houses still dependent on well water. Out of 1477 houses about 1452 have a piped supply, but 28 of these are dependant upon stand pipes.

PREVALENCE OF INFECTIOUS DISEASE. The following gives details of notified cases (excluding Tuberculosis) during the year.

<u>DISEASE.</u>	<u>Total cases notified.</u>	<u>Admitted to hospital.</u>	<u>Deaths.</u>
Scarlet Fever	6	6	Nil.
Diphtheria	1	1	Nil.
Measles	1	Nil.	Nil.
Whooping Cough.	26	1	Nil.
Pneumonia	3	2	1
Erysipelas	1	1	1
Cerebro-Spinal Fever	1	1	Nil.

TUBERCULOSIS

<u>New Cases.</u>	<u>Deaths.</u>
Pulmonary	Pulmonary Nil.
Non-Pulmonary	Non-Pulmonary 1.

TABLE SHOWING BIRTH RATES, DEATH RATES

AND INFANTILE MORTALITY RATES.

	Number of Live Births	Birth-rate per 1,000	Number of Deaths	Death-rate per 1,000 Population	Number of Infant Deaths	Infantile Mortality per 1,000 Births.
England & Wales	-	17.6	-	11.6	-	46.
126 County Boroughs and Great Towns including London	-	20.3	-	13.7	-	52.
148 Smaller Towns (Resident Population 25,000 to 50,000 1931 Census)	-	20.9	-	12.4	-	44.
London Administrative County	-	15.0	-	15.7	-	61.
Borough of Hemel Hempstead	383	19.2	222	10.4	13	31.2
Rural District of Hemel Hempstead	183	19.5	112	10.9	5	24.9
Urban District of Berkhamsted	174	16.2	137	11.9	6	52.2.
Rural District of Berkhamsted	90	16.7	73	12.3	3	30.3
Urban District of Tring	81	16.4	57	10.8	1	11.6

